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Commercial: 703 767 9120
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FAX: 703 767 9119
E-mail: iac@dtic.mil

CPIA Story 1 Story 2

Naval Sea Systems Command

CPIA provided technical information support to a Naval Sea Systems Command inquiry concerning single base gun propellant autoignition temperatures. The inquiry pertained to a safety assessment being conducted for the transport of the USS Cole back to the U.S. following the overseas terrorist attack.

Continued on Story 1

Liquid Explosives Safety

CPIA provided technical information support to a U.S. DoD assessment of unsymmetrical dimethylhydrazine (UDMH) and nitrogen tetroxide (N_2O_4) propellant disposal activities being undertaken in the former Soviet Union as part of the U.S. threat reduction program. Information was provided relevant to disposal of large quantities of these propellants using industrial chemical processes for the conversion of energetic materials, including UDMH, to other commercial commodities, as well as industrial incineration processes for UDMH and N_2O_4. In addition, information on lessons learned regarding propellant handling and logistics from U.S. deactivation of hypergolic propellant fueled Titan II ICBMs was provided.

Continued on Story 2

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Naval Sea Systems Command (continued)

Concerns were raised about the possibility of autoignition of gun propellants being stored without normal environmental controls. CPIA compiled data highlighting exothermic decomposition temperature measurements for typical gun propellants, allowing safety assessors to determine the inherent safety factor involved.

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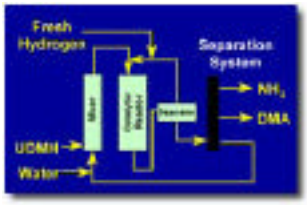
CPIA Story 1 Story 2

Liquid Explosives Safety (continued)

The data generated in these activities formed the basis for proposed revisions to current standards. In addition, CPIA coordinated the deliberations of an interagency advisory board, the Liquid Propellants Working Group (LPWG), which provided oversight in the assessment of available information with respect to historical and operational requirements, and ultimately the formulation of final recommendations for a proposed change to DoD 6055.9-STD "DoD Ammunition and Explosives Safety Standards." The LPWG also provided expert advice to the DDESB concerning launch site planning for the highly visible Air Force Delta IV Evolved Expendable Launch Vehicle (EELV) program. Details on the rationale for the program as well as technical information developed from the accident and test review, with respect to hazards controlling quantity-distance criteria for liquid propellants and propulsion systems, have been published in a variety of CPIA publications, and JANNAF and DDESB conference proceedings.



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